



**CONSERVATION
LANDS
FOUNDATION**



CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

OCTOBER 2019

Conservation organizations at the local, state and national levels, and the public interests we represent, are deeply interested in the management of public lands in Clark County and have worked for decades to preserve those lands. From the Spring Mountains to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Gold Butte National Monument to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and many unprotected areas in between, the public lands in Clark County provide outstanding habitat, offer opportunities for solitude and outdoor recreation, protect important cultural resources, and support Nevada's strong outdoor economy.

We have diverse views and differing priorities for public lands legislation in Clark County. However, we all agree that public lands legislation in the county must appropriately balance conservation, recreation, and economic development and must provide a substantial net conservation gain. Successful public lands legislation must, at a minimum, adhere to the following principles:

- ☐ Legislation must ensure permanent protection, through wilderness or other appropriate designations, for high value conservation lands in the county, with a focus on lands with

important ecological, scenic, recreational, wildlife, educational, cultural, historical, or natural values.

- ☐ Legislation must not undermine bedrock environmental laws including the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act and the scientific and public processes they proscribe, including through language that mandates changes to species mitigation requirements or permit terms and conditions.
- ☐ Legislation must not undermine public participation in the management of public lands through limits on public engagement in public land planning or management, or limits on administrative and judicial review of land management decisions.
- ☐ The ecological, scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, and natural values of public land must be fully evaluated and disclosed prior to authorizing the disposal of public lands in Clark County.
- ☐ Legislation must be developed and implemented after consultation with sovereign Tribal Nations, specifically those with ties to affected lands, and must respect tribal sovereignty and honor Native American uses of, and historic and contemporary connections to, public land.